

**Karner Blue HCP
Implementation and Oversight Committee Meeting
April 9, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Schmeeckle Reserve, UW—Stevens Point**

IOC MINUTES—FINAL

Present: Joel Aanensen, Gary Birch (Moderator), Jim Christenson, Rick Dailey, Eric Ebersberger, Yoyi Hernandez (Recorder), Lorin Hicks, Dave Lentz, Peter Moreno, Duane Prondzinski, Steve Richter.

Anti-Trust Announcement

Jimmy Christenson made the anti-trust statement.

Agenda Items

1. Agenda repair

No one offered any changes.

2. Approve 8/27/02 IOC minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. Review ACTION ITEMS from previous IOC meeting

IOC DECISION: ANR's SHCA will be amended to include this pre-management survey exclusion.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will send a letter to FWS requesting this amendment.

Update Dave: Cathy is requesting more data on this issue, so it's still under review.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will distribute the 1995 version of the AOP to all the partners along with an explanation.

Update Dave: Done.

ACTION ITEM: IOC members will review these four minor amendments and get their comments to Dave by March 1st.

Update Dave: These were presented to Cathy and were approved. At Cathy's suggestion, the clarification for the nested Level 3 monitoring scheme will also have a table to visually demonstrate the sampling system.

ACTION ITEM DAVE: Send gypsy moth issue paper to the IOC.

ACTION ITEM IOC: Comment to Dave by March 1st.

Update Dave: Done.

ACTION ITEM: IOC will review and research existing pre-management survey language and protocol and be ready to discuss potential clarifications or revisions at the next IOC meeting.

Update: On the agenda for this meeting (Agenda Item 8).

ACTION ITEM: The IOC will review the participation strategy 3-year review report draft and provide comments, feedback, and ideas to Peter by March 1st.

Update Peter: Done.

ACTION ITEM: Include discussion/solicitation of future field trip sites on agenda for summer meeting (ask people what they would like to see).

For Summer Field Trip meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Yoyi will put together a simpler evaluation for the summer field trip to solicit ideas and suggestions for future summer field trip locations and activities.

For Summer Field Trip meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will distribute letter to Bill Hartwig with explanation of its purpose.

Update Dave: Not done.

Jimmy said that he met the new Region 3 director, that she's very nice, and that she's open to discussing Karner HCP & Recovery when she comes to Wisconsin.

Lorin asked about the status of the Recovery Plan.

Dave believes that the Green Bay Field Office has completed their work on the draft Final Recovery Plan, and that it may still be in Region 3's court.

4. Transfers & Inclusions: Status Updates

- Update on new partner inclusions

Dave handed out an inclusion roster and provided updates on partner inclusions.

-Town of Adams, Burnett County Highway Dept., Eau Claire County Highway Dept., and Juneau County Highway Dept. have all submitted signed SHCAs for Limited Partnership. Copies of these and requests for Certificates of Inclusion (CIs) have been delivered to the FWS (Cathy Carnes). Dave will be visiting Chuck Dehmow of the Town of Quincy tomorrow to help him complete his inclusion paperwork.

-Town of Clearfield has declined inclusion. Dave attended their town meeting last month. A vote to join the HCP was not unanimous. The town chair wants to be assured they have KBB before signing on. A town employee will take monitoring training this May. The Juneau County Forestry Liaison volunteered to help the town with KBB P/A surveys.

There are several other town and county highway departments who have shown interest in joining the HCP, but have not committed yet.

Jimmy continues to feel that a lack of visible and strong enforcement on the part of the FWS is a factor in low impetus for inclusions among the town & county highway departments because they don't see a real threat of enforcement.

-Dave said that he found out in his last meeting with Cathy that Plum Creek *still* has not been issued a Certificate of Inclusion despite the fact that they submitted their application materials to the Service two years ago. Partners expressed some dismay at this lack of expediency.

-WRPCO/WPSC: Cathy is reviewing the new SHCA, which is a recommitment under WPSC management. Ownership and management have shifted, but the existing CI can still stand.

-DNR is in the process of inviting remaining known corridor entities, i.e., railroads and other utility managers, to join the HCP as full partners. It is expected that the invitation will be mailed soon.

- Onyx Services: new "full partner" applicant for inclusion.

Dave explained the Onyx situation: permanent take and mitigation. Dave gave Cathy a draft of their SHCA and is waiting for her response before finalizing their SHCA.

- We Energies: New umbrella SHCA. This is still in progress.
- What to do with the inclusion fee (DNR still does not have authority to received such funds from a regulated entity).

The original intent of the application fee was to help offset processing costs. The intent of the inclusion fee was to fund conservation activities. However, the DNR has no legislative authority to accept funds from regulated entities and allocate them. The Bureau of Endangered Resources has tried repeatedly to get authority to handles HCP related fees, but requests have never gone anywhere. Because these fees apply only to new partners, not original partners or transfers, it has not been an issue yet, but now that there will be at least one new full partner, the question has come up. Several suggestions were discussed.

Jimmy suggested that if we don't get the issue resolved before Onyx's application is processed, we can advise them of their obligation and that an invoice will be coming at a later date.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will talk to the Natural Resources Foundation and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation to set up an account to receive these fees or solicit ideas for other ways to do this.

5. Participation Plan Assessment (3-year review)

Peter offered a brief description of the report and the Communications Team's thinking on it. In addition to the analysis and the O&E activity summary, the report will have a success stories section in magazine article format, with many pictures, and will be useful as an education and outreach tool to showcase voluntary conservation above and beyond a mandatory report. Peter passed out a few pages of the draft report. Jimmy suggested a small rewards program for volunteers. Gary wondered how the GBFO would react to a report that is largely qualitative and contains few hard numbers. Dave, Peter, and Jimmy responded that we just don't have a lot of hard data representing on-the-ground conservation; outreach may be second or third hand when the landowner receives it. Therefore we may never know if x-number of acres are restored. We are presenting the information we have, and that hopefully the report will speak for itself in terms of success. Lorin shared his experiences with similar reports to the FWS on other HCPs he's worked on. The final report may not be ready by the 6-month HCP review meeting. Rather than share a draft with the Service at that time, there was some discussion about presenting the report to GBFO & Region 3 officials at a joint meeting in Ft. Snelling. Several partners asked about submitting stories. Lorin suggested a contribution from industrial forestry and suggested several names to contact for stories.

ACTION ITEM: IOC should get their comments on the draft report to Peter and submit any stories they wish to be included by the end of this month.

6. Mowing Guideline conflict

Mowing Guideline: discuss possible changes to April-August mowing restriction in order to allow for invasive plant control.

At 10/23/02 HCP 6-mo Review meeting (agenda item #6): Gary Birch agreed to "provide information on a specific exotic of concern in KBB areas that could be worked on to help develop some protocols." Use an example from Gary for discussion. Decide if IOC can work on this or charge BioTeam with project/objectives/sideboards, etc.

Gary passed around a handout with background material and a proposal to bring to the FWS, and presented his ideas. Gary's proposal was discussed. There was some concern about how the town and county highway departments would be affected. Dave questioned the need for several of the restrictions on mowing (e.g., setting the mower blade height at 6-8 inches) and cited information from Scott Swengel. Lorin and Joel suggested finding a few sites to serve as test plots and setting up a treatment and control situation. This would provide evidence to support adaptive management. Dave said that evidence should already be out there. Jimmy supported the idea of a pilot project to demonstrate a need for adaptive management. Joel said he has a letter on file from Cathy Carnes giving Plum Creek permission to implement adaptive management in certain circumstances. He will send a copy of this letter to Gary.

ACTION ITEM: Gary will draft a letter to FWS based on Plum Creek's model, explaining the adaptive management they will implement using mowing to control invasive plants.

7. Outreach & Education Issues & Updates

- Spring Newsletter items

Dave said that the spring newsletter is due to be published, but there is really nothing to put in it. He emphasized that this is not just a DNR publication, it's a partner publication, and partners really need to contribute to it. The last issue contained a number of articles and has received very positive feedback. He asked whether the twice-a-year publication schedule should be revised, and suggested publishing it just once a year; that would give partners more time to contribute material. There was some discussion of this. It was decided that the 3-year review with its success stories would take the place of the newsletter this spring; an updated partner calendar and updates on clarifications and amendments will be sent out to partners and operational contacts by email. Formal clarifications/amendments will go out in official hardcopy form. It was agreed we would plan to publish a winter newsletter in January/February 2004 rather than December like last year. People will likely have more time after the holidays.

- HCP logo/slogan: review proposal.

Peter passed around the most recent draft of the logo and slogan. Response was very positive. There were suggestions about making pins, window decals, or bumper stickers out of it. Gary called for a motion for the IOC to approve the logo and slogan.

IOC DECISION: The logo and slogan representing the Karner Blue HCP partnership are approved.

- ATC's O&E T-shirt idea. Update.

Dave passed around a draft of ATC's T-shirt design, commending ATC and Rita Hayen for this outreach effort. Designed as a fundraiser as well as for O&E, Rita said the funds raised by employees would go to BER for Karner work, such as additional O&E support.

8. IOC Scheduling: consider revising annual dates.

Dave explained that Rob Kudick requested modifying the IOC meeting schedule due to the forest industry's heavy conference commitments each April. There was some discussion of whether and how to modify the schedule.

IOC DECISION: Leave the meeting schedule the way it is.

9. Amendment/Clarification Meeting (DNR & FWS)

- Review issues and action items from 3/19/03 Amendment/Clarification review meeting (Dave & Yoyi visit with Cathy Carnes)

Dave reviewed the items discussed at the 3-19-03 meeting with Cathy Carnes.

There was some talk about the pre-management survey issue, which Dave didn't get a chance to discuss fully with Cathy. Dave asked for comments and suggestions on this issue. One idea proposed was to give land managers discretion on whether or not a given site requires a pre-management survey to check for lupine or Karners; a manager would be bound to document why s/he decided the site did not need a pre-management survey, and this documentation could be subject to review in audits. This proposal will be brought up at the 6-month meeting as one example among many of the need to streamline HCP implementation.

There was some discussion on whether limited partners should be required to fill out an Annual Report. The only routine activity they report is mowing. It isn't even sure that take occurs; therefore an accurate accounting of incidental take is not possible. Consensus seemed to be that it isn't necessary. DNR will discuss this with the Service at the 6-month review.

There was discussion about the purpose and value of self-monitoring and the fact that no one has been counting butterflies during pre- and post-management surveys as was intended. There is purpose in pre-management surveys, i.e., to determine, measure and report incidental take; going beyond that was originally left up to each partner. Without anything else being specifically required, little else is being done.

Dave brought up the issue of lands included in the HCP, and the fact that we do not have a good handle on the lands-included data system. It would be difficult to put together an analysis for the no net loss of habitat goal (or set a baseline), which is the primary goal of the HCP. He said this is something the IOC needs to get back on its radar screen—another reason to get the BioTeam restarted. Dave mentioned that a monitoring meeting would be held next Thursday to revisit issues for the BioTeam and to relate HCP monitoring to Recovery.

10. HCP 6-month Review meeting with FWS (TBD)

- Discuss draft agenda and issues.

Dave distributed a handout with several agenda items for the 6-month review meeting, and solicited suggestions for other items, particularly relating to streamlining HCP implementation. Suggestions: removing need for FWS to approve changes for adaptive management (Lorin); process improvements so FWS can process new partner inclusions in a timelier fashion (Dave); further streamlining of Effectiveness Monitoring protocol (Steve); a review of how monitoring data are analyzed and interpreted, establishing a population range for recovery instead of a fixed number; this would only be worth doing if it would result in re-evaluation of the recovery goal (Lorin). Lorin suggested a UW-Stevens Point professor, Kevin Russell, who would be a good resource for statistics and modeling questions. This will need to be a BioTeam issue.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will contact Dr. Russell to discuss HCP issues and availability.

11. Is there any new business, concerns, or opportunities that need discussion, to be dealt with now, or that are on the horizon and should be scheduled for future work?

No items were offered.

Closing

- **Summarize decisions and action items.**

Yoyi summarized the action items and decisions.

- **Set next IOC meeting location, time and discuss agenda items.**

If needed, there will be a post-picnic meeting in June. Otherwise, the next meeting will be on August 13, location TBA.

- **Evaluate meeting.**

Good meeting; much was accomplished.
People liked this meeting location.